

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 100, 101, and 106-113 are allowed. In order to facilitate issuance of a patent containing the allowed claims, the rejected claims are cancelled above without prejudice to prosecution of the subject matter of those claims in any appropriate application. Subject matter of rejected claims will be prosecuted in a continuation application.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 100, 101, and 106-113 are now pending in this application.

Objections to Drawings

The Draftsperson indicated that the drawings submitted 12-02-99 were not acceptable, and required submission of replacement drawings. However, formal drawings were submitted on 12 June 2002. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the formal drawings submitted 12 June 2002. If those drawings cannot be located, Applicant requests the undersigned be notified by telephone to allow prompt submission of replacement formal drawings.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicated that the references cited in the information disclosure statement dated October 21, 2002 were not considered, because the references were not present in the parent application, 09/407,804. Applicant submits copies of the cited references herewith, along with a replacement copy of the corresponding Form 1449 as filed in parent application 09/407,804, and requests that the Examiner return an initialed and signed copy of the Form 1449.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 102-105, 114, and 115 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. The rejected claims were cancelled above without prejudice to future prosecution. Therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests notice to that effect.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would assist in resolving any issues.

No fee is believed due in connection with this submission. However, if any fee is due, kindly charge the appropriate amount to Deposit Account 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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